

The Sweet Spot of Anointing

By Randall A. Bach

Athletes who use a racket or wooden bat understand the term, “sweet spot.” It is where hand, placement of the ball on the bat or racket, balance, and timing come together to give the ball maximum rebound when it is hit. When you line up the ball with the sweet spot it springs or explodes off the bat or racket. Miss the sweet spot and it can seem like the bat or racket absorb the force of the ball, which either ricochets to the side or is returned with a whimpering velocity. Matching stroke and ball with the sweet spot is pure delight. You can feel the spring in your hands and see and hear the force with your eyes and ears. It is the feel of power delivered with result. The more focused the athlete the greater the prospects of recognizing, finding, and delivering with the sweet spot. The best athletes know how to locate and practice a stroke that more consistently hits the sweet spot than average athletes. They know it is the difference between excellence and mediocrity, between exhilaration and disappointment.

Anointing is like the sweet spot of maximized



service for the Lord. You can feel it and see it, when alignment between the Holy Spirit, timing, and dedicated service generate power and results. Every servant of the Lord has experienced the sweet spot of anointing, when you know the Lord and you are synchronized, when you are tuned to His frequency and He is empowering beyond what you could achieve in your own strength or ability. And, servants of the Lord also know what it is like to miss the sweet spot of anointing, when personal efforts ricochet off target or land on the ground with a powerless, dead thud. Hitting the sweet spot energizes and inspires eagerness for the next hit whereas missing it drains and discourages.

I have experienced the propulsion of anointing and the plop of personal effort without anointing. There is no doubt about which I prefer! I am still learning and have much to learn. There is always much more to grasp and experience with the Holy Spirit. I believe Ephesians 3:20 wonderfully describes the heart of God and the magnitude of Spirit-anointing: ***“By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope”*** (NLT). “He is able” suggests this power is held in reserve, dispensed at His discretion. What can we do to appropriate the anointing of the Holy Spirit? How can we move beyond “He is able” to “accomplish infinitely more”?

About 6 ½ inches from the end of the barrel, just above the trademark, rests a bat’s sweet spot. The center of percussion, the sweet spot on a racket, is slightly above the racket’s center of gravity. It is where the explosive spring awaits. The sweet spot of anointing is bracketed by two, prescriptively defined scriptures:

Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

John 15:5 (NLT)

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

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We are to appropriate power promised to us. "I can do everything" indicates no physical financial, mental, or other limitations. It supports faith-filled resolve and boldness because Christ will help with whatever kind of strength is needed to do whatever it is we will do through Him. Philippians 4:13 is an action or doing verse. Anointing enables us to do that which we could not otherwise do in ourselves, spurring confidence to do more.

John 15:5 is a positional verse, explaining our relationship with the supreme Christ and the conduit nature of our function as vessels through whom He produces fruit. It makes very clear that we are powerless without Christ, a check valve of humility.

Like buoys, Philippians 4:13 and John 15:5 keep us anchored in the deep waters of anointing. I should not shrink from imposing battles or dreaming about and pursuing visions that are too big for me to accomplish. I can do all things through the strength Christ supplies! And, I must never forget that should I stray from His covering and enablement, mistaking His strength for mine, this branch of the vine can be pruned off at any time and the vine will continue on without me. Herein are scriptural dimensions of the sweet spot of anointing. Balance is of the Lord, fine-tuned for maximized service and fruit. You can feel and see the difference when you hit the sweet spot. ***"Lord, help me to hear and heed your voice, striding with boldness wrapped in humility. I acknowledge I can do nothing apart from you while thanking you that, through Christ, I can do all things!"***

PONDER

- ***Are you currently appropriating the "I can do all things..." power of Christ or are you relying on your personal resources?***
- ***Are you dreaming dreams and actively pursuing visions that are bigger than you and your circumstances, or are you allowing your circumstances to dictate and diminish your dreams and vision?***
- ***How keenly aware are you today that in spite of your gifts, talents, intelligence, persuasiveness, experience, and accomplishments, that apart from Christ you are nothing, that everything you are and have is because of him?***
- ***Does your spirit convey the humility of this recognition?***

